

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 2064 - HB 2489**

March 6, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Enacts the *Tennessee Student Voter Act*. Requires each high school in the state to inform each high school senior, upon reaching the age of 18, that the student is eligible to vote and provide them information about how to register to vote.

Authorizes the use of a photographic identification card issued by an accredited postsecondary institution of education as evidence of identification at a polling place. Allows a person who registers by mail or online to vote in person or absentee by mail for their first election.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures –**

**\$10,000/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter**

**Increase Local Expenditures –**

**\$20,000/FY22-23 and Every Two Years Thereafter\***

**\$10,000/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter\***

**Assumptions:**

- Under the proposed legislation, high schools may notify the necessary students about voting information verbally or electronically; therefore, any fiscal impact would be not significant.
- Workers at polling locations will not need a significant amount of training to correctly identify valid school-issued identification cards.
- Authorizing students to use their school-issued identification card for voting purposes will have no significant fiscal impact on state or local government.
- The proposed legislation would authorize voters who register to vote by mail or online, to vote via absentee ballot for their first election.
- County election commissions will receive a greater number of requests for absentee ballots as a result of this legislation; however, costs to each county will vary based on the number of registered voters.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-202(a), a voter who desires to vote absentee shall request an absentee ballot by submission of an application containing certain identifying information of the voter as well as a document that includes the voter's signature.

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- Some county election commission offices will require additional staff for verifying the signature and identifying information of the voter provided on the application and absentee ballot, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-202(b) – (g).
- There will also be an increase in local expenditures for postage costs associated with mailing an absentee ballot to a qualified voter who has completed an application.
- An estimated increase in local expenditures statewide of \$10,000 per election, for increased staffing and postage costs.
- Such absentee ballots will only be cast in years of a primary, general, or runoff election. Therefore, in FY22-23 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$20,000 (\$10,000 per election x 2 elections) for the August primary and November general elections and in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures of \$10,000.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore, in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter, there will be an increase in state expenditures of \$10,000.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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